

VI. SHEEP MOUNTAIN SUMMER HOME AREA

Sheep Mountain is located on the Eastern fringe of Bingham County. It is in the area also referred to as Long Valley Road, and is near the Grays Lake Waterfowl Preserve. The terrain surrounding this area consists of rolling hills and prairie flatlands. It is utilized by ranchers for cattle grazing, and sportsmen for hunting and fishing.

The terrain is covered with a wide variety of grasses, sage and other brushes, and trees.

Rainfall is sparse and by mid-summer, the vegetation dries out and provides the basis for wild fires. Fire fighting crews and equipment would find it difficult to respond because of the distance and nature of the terrain.

The area where the summer homes are located is thickly wooded and located on single-track mountain roadways. The trees consist mostly of Pine, Quaking Aspen and Scrub Oak. It is currently unknown how many summer homes are in the area. Some have been built without having obtained a building permit. It is estimated that there are from 8 to 12 homes located in the forested slopes of Sheep Mountain.

The Sheep Mountain Summer Home Area would be serviced by the Blackfoot Fire District and the Firth/Shelley Fire District.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

No known mitigation actions have been taken in this area. The following are some suggestions that could provide minimal protection.

1. Implement a fire education program with the goal of teaching and Encouraging homeowners to create defensible space around their homes. A program is proposed that would provide for risk evaluation, such as Red Zone.
2. Develop a county map of the roadways that connect with the homes so that Emergency vehicles could respond.
3. Provide for improved communications throughout the area. At present, emergency vehicles cannot transmit or receive in this area. A Repeater would need to be installed to resolve this communications gap. Likewise, cell phone usage is not available.
4. Future county development should take into consideration adopting codes that Would make a home in areas like this more fire resistant. Such codes could involve creating defensible space, fire-retardant building materials, and vegetation management.
5. Ensure that alternate routes of egress are provided for. All homeowners in the

area should be able to exit their area, except for their own driveway, on an alternate route.